



NEWS RELEASE

Roberto A. Villaseñor
Chief of Police

Contact: Maria Hawke
Sergeant / Public Information Office
520-791-4852
On-call PIO: tucsonpdpio@gmail.com
<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/police>

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FATAL COLLISION SOUTH LA CHOLLA AND WEST SAN MARCOS ***UPDATE – DECEMBER 16, 2012***

The driver of the Lincoln Navigator involved in the fatal motor vehicle collision that occurred at the intersection of South La Cholla Road and West San Marcos on the early morning of December 15, 2012 has been arrested. He was identified as **Robert S. Ballesteros, Jr., 41-years of age**. Mr. Ballesteros was charged with **1 count of Second Degree Murder, 1 count of Aggravated Assault, 1 count of Criminal Damage (in an amount over \$20,000.00), 1 count of Criminal Damage (Impairment to a Utility), and 1 count of Aggravated DUI, all felony offenses**. Upon his release from the hospital, he was transported and booked into the Pima County Jail. A booking photograph is included below.



Robert S. Ballesteros, Jr.

Sergeant Maria Hawke – December 16, 2012

At approximately 2:45 a.m. on December 15, 2012, officers from Operations Division South responded to a reported motor vehicle collision that occurred at the intersection of South La Cholla Road and West San Marcos. Initial information indicated that two vehicles had been involved in the collision. Upon their arrival, the officers found that the

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occupants (driver and passenger) of one of the involved vehicles had been injured as a result of the collision. The driver of the other vehicle was pronounced deceased at the scene. Emergency medical personnel from the Tucson Fire Department transported the injured persons to a local hospital. Their injuries were described as serious, but not life threatening. The deceased driver was later identified as Mandie Scammell, 22-years old. Next of kin have been notified.

Detectives from the Traffic Investigations Unit responded to the scene in order to further the investigation. They conducted interviews with witnesses as well as examined and collected evidence at the scene. The detectives determined that a 2000 Lincoln Navigator was traveling southbound on South La Cholla Road. The injured driver and passenger were in the Lincoln Navigator. A 2011 Jeep Cherokee was traveling northbound on South La Cholla Road. Ms. Scammell had been driving the Jeep Cherokee. As both vehicles neared the intersection with West San Marcos, the driver of the Lincoln Navigator initiated a left turn to drive eastbound on West San Marcos. Due to the proximity of the Jeep Cherokee at the time that the driver initiated the turn, the vehicles collided nearly head on. The force of the collision caused both vehicles to go off the roadway onto the northeastern corner of the intersection. A wooden utility pole and guardrail were struck as well. There were no other vehicles involved. Detectives also determined that alcohol might have been a factor in the collision. As such, charges may be pending at a later time.

Fatalities year to date:

For 2011 - 45

17 Pedestrian
2 Bicycle
11 Motorcycle

For 2012 -35

6 Pedestrian
3 Bicycle
6 Motorcycle

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